



**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EL DORADO NATURE CENTER FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS**

## *From the Director . . .*

Ah sweet spring. Another cycle beginning at El Dorado Nature Center as the alder and elm leaves emerge from the barren branches. That new green before the leaves harden is always my first sign that the soil is warming, the days are lengthening and flowers will soon erupt in a cacophony of color.

It has been difficult this spring to sit down and write this last message to you as director of the Nature Center. I have a hard time imagining what my days will be like without Townsends Warblers feeding in the canary island pine outside of my window or the rattling of the kingfisher as it circles the lake in the morning. Beyond the fresh breath walking over the bridge and the fried egg, matilija poppies on the ¼ mile trail, your hugs, and smiling faces will be what is most sorely missed. You have all been familia these last 22 years; a community of loving, caring and committed folks. Thank you for holding me in that circle, for keeping me, and the Nature Center in your heart.

OK, I'm starting to cry. Let me move on to the exciting things the future holds for our beloved Nature Center. Donnie Haigh & Meaghan O'Neill have been selected as "Acting Supervising Park Naturalist," taking over my supervisory duties. Susan Ettinger has been given the permanent part-time position as Friends and volunteer coordinator of the Center, and hiring of a new program naturalist is underway. I have recommended that the department look at budget, do a salary survey for supervisors of comparable centers, and

pursue filling the two full-time and two permanent part time positions after an exhaustive search in order to ensure the future of the Nature Center as we near our 40th anniversary.

In September, the Nature Center will be embarking on the first stage of the restoration called for in our 2003 Master Plan not done by staff and volunteers. Our stream is the focus of this project and work will include the removal of non-native plant material along the banks, dredging and narrowing of the channel, and planting regional native plants associated with rivers and streams. We anticipate that

the one-mile will be closed for 3 or 4 months. We look to all of you for support during the renewal work.

Finally, as many of you know, staff has been working to develop a common vision for the Center as we move forward. These last few weeks I have been working to document this work in some kind of strategic planning format. This will be given to Phil Hester and Chrissy Marshall and may serve as a guide for future development at the Center.

During this time of transition, the Nature Center staff needs your continued love and support. Community participation in the budget process as well as help in mulching new plants is always needed.

Thank you for joining me, our staff, and all your friends in this wonderful adventure called El Dorado Nature Center.

— Mary Blackburn

### **Breakage**

I go down to the edge of the sea.  
How everything shines in the morning light!  
The cusp of the whelk,  
the broken cupboard of the clam,  
the opened, blue mussels,  
moon snails, pale pink and barnacle scarred—  
and nothing at all whole or shut, tattered, split,  
dropped by the gulls onto the gray rocks and all the  
moisture gone.  
It's like a schoolhouse  
of little words,  
thousands of words.  
First you figure out what each one means by itself,  
the jingle, the periwinkle, the scallop  
full of moonlight.  
Then you begin, slowly to read the whole story.

— By Mary Oliver  
*Why I Wake Early*

## **Know Your Local Dragonflies**

Our on-going enrichment for volunteers and Friends of El Dorado Nature Center continues on Sunday, April 27 with a presentation by Kathy Briggs, author of *Dragonflies of California* and *Dragonflies of the Southwest*. This exciting, free program will be held at the Nature Center from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited, so call 570-1745 to reserve your spot.

# History in the Making

With smiles, hugs and a keen interest in the topic, volunteers and friends gathered in January to hear a presentation on the history of El Dorado Nature Center given by some of those who have made that history. Led by Mary Blackburn, whose last day as director was February 29, the evening was full of rich memories, little known facts, reminiscences, and funny stories.

The evening began with the theme that individuals and their contributions to the Nature Center's purpose and programs are the pieces that make up its story. The narrative started as Mary read a poem by Mary Oliver (see page 1) and then shared how the land was once home to the Tongva people, who used the abundant resources of this coastal region to develop a rich culture and society. The Europeans arrived in the 1500s, and later the land passed from the Spanish to be divided into five ranchos. Once the river was channelized in the mid 1900s, the land was used for cows, calico beans and sugar beets. The City of Long Beach purchased the land in 1952 along with hundreds of acres that would become Eldo West and the regional park.

Phil Peterson, director of the Nature Center when it opened its doors in 1969, continued by telling how the trails were created, "I knew what I wanted, so it was just a matter of standing in front of the lawn-mower and saying, 'OK, turn this way, and now go here.'" More than 4000 plants and trees were installed representing different ecotones.

The Nature Center building was constructed in 1969. In 1970, the first tours were held with docents leading 5th graders in natural science lessons as preparation for the 6th grade outdoor school field-trip. Soon afterward, Proposition 13 was enacted, which unfortunately resulted in greatly diminished funding and a slowing of progress for Nature Center programs.

Mary began her work at the Nature Center in 1986, with the impetus to devel-

op environmental curriculum and restore what had become a much overgrown landscape. She developed a grounds maintenance plan and worked with the Natural History Museum to design new exhibits for the visitor's center. Another partnership with the LA County Natural History Museum brought our community the Moveable Museum outreach program staffed by volunteers.

Dixie Swift, the creator of the Discover Long Beach Parks program, told how the Nature Center partnered with local schools to nurture environmental stewardship by teaching students about

Pride in America" award, the annual Rolling Down the River cleanup was established, and a resource management plan that is still referenced today was conceived. In 1994, the new classroom was built, the whole access trail opened and the demonstration garden, behind the building, was planted.

Former staffer, Lisa Harris, told how the Nature Center partnered with the Integrated Resources Bureau to bring recycling education to classrooms. Mary helped create the TREC Truck, the traveling recycling education classroom, housed in a 40' trailer. "Kids went through a model home to discover ways they could recycle,"

Lisa said. "We still use that trailer today for education."

In the late 90s, the Nature Center received mitigation money from CAL Trans to establish what is now known as the east restoration area, which includes a variety of native plant associations. To respond to the increasing interest in native plants, the popular annual Native Plant Sale was created and the *Friends of El Dorado Nature Center* non-profit arm of Partners of Parks was established.

Tara Sievers, former Education Director, detailed the development of honing school tours to support the California content standards for elementary education. Tara also shared a humorous perspective on the day-to-day workings of being a Nature Center staffer, "There was an incident when I was working on a detailed cut-and-paste project and suddenly there was a commotion and a chicken ran across my desk. Someone had dumped it at the Center and a staff person was trying to catch it. At the time, I thought 'just another day at the office.'"

The turning of the new century brought fresh perspective and a sharpening of vision for the Nature Center. Ecological education at the Center has focused on

... continued on page 3



**Sharing in the Nature Center History were Mary Blackburn, Dixie Swift, Pia Pizzo, Lisa Harris, Tara Sievers and Phil Peterson.**

nature in their local parks. At the same time, with Dixie's help, the Nature Center received a Cal Arts Council grant that enabled artist Pia Pizzo to work with a group of blind children to create a book of seasons experienced through senses other than sight. A melding of nature and culture had begun, a partnership that is still evident in art gallery shows, poetry readings and story telling concerts.

Under Mary's leadership, the Nature Center saw many developments and the extensive expansion of programming in the 1990s. Day camps emerged and then evolved into what is now preschool and the elementary Super Science program and Winter and Spring Break Workshops at the Nature Center and Colorado Lagoon. The Adopt-a-Gutter program won the "Take

# Growing from the Ashes

The area of the Center burned in August is beginning to take on a fresh look as 130 one-gallon plants were put into the ground in December. More than 22 volunteers, many of whom were Habitat Stewards, gathered together to plant black willow, Mexican elderberry, Arroyo willow, California rose and mulefat off the one-mile trail.

Following the guidelines of the Master Plan, this first phase consists of plants from the riparian and woodland communities and was designed to create habitat as well as provide a screen along the perimeter. Both willow and California rose are good vegetation to fill-in the holes between the picnic area and the trail according to Habitat Stewards Coordinator, Donnie Haigh, "Willows can grow up to 20 feet high and California rose will provide a good natural barrier along the fence line to discourage people from trying to get in." It is unknown if the fire was caused by people entering after hours, but that area of the fence has been a regular route into the Center for trespassers and vandals.

Many thanks to the Habitat Stewards who helped plant and then follow up each week with watering and mulching to keep

the process going forward: **JoAnn Smith, Lynne Horn, Tom Fowler, Margaret Brandt and Kerry Martin.** Also, after the plant locations were spotted by Mary Blackburn, the following volunteers helped get them into the ground on December 15: **Elena Holcomb, Suzanne Mc-Michael, Hank Warzybok, Maria Zawacki, Lee Warren, Linda Diaz, Linda Bryan-Thompson, Rick Nolan, Stephanie Born, Janice Johnson, Terri Reed and Andrew Morrison.**



*Willow trees were planted along the perimeter fence after the fire to act as a screen between the parking lot and trail.*

## A Year in Review -

helping patrons of all ages nurture their love of nature and develop a sense of place and stewardship. This is done through teaching that starts where people are and encouraging discovery and questioning.

In the early 2000s, the expansion of volunteer programs such as Sharing Nature in the City, Trail Stewards and Habitat Stewards created fellowship and tapped into the gifts of those in the community who share a love of the earth. The Nature Center's Master Plan, developed in 2003 helped put us on a path of restoration and renewal which is evidenced as you walk the trails and see new native planting areas that are attracting more wildlife. The Colorado Lagoon Wetland and Marine Education Center, which opened in 2006, is another expansion of Nature Center programming that has included watershed education, wetland ecology, wildlife and pollution study for the public and local school children. The Nature Center has been keeping the coastline free of debris by

*continued from page 2 . . .*

coordinating beach and wetland cleanups throughout the year, not the least of which is the Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day in September.

It would be difficult to name all the events, classes, programs and activities the Nature Center offers its community, but the central theme of sustainability and place-based education is working its way into the day-to-day thinking of the staff and patrons as everyone envisions a more environmentally friendly world and works to discover more effective ways to nurture that awareness.

The legacy of El Dorado Nature Center continues to be rich as lives are touched, attitudes are transformed and ideas are shared. Thank you for all who have laid the foundation of inspiring possibilities. If you are interested in obtaining a DVD of the History of El Dorado Nature Center presentation, please call 570-1745 to reserve your copy.

# Creating Native Gardens

So you think native plants only grow in wild places, right? Actually, many people develop native gardens at their homes in order to restore a natural landscape and provide habitat for wildlife. Native plants are versatile, drought-friendly, and great additions to any California garden. Now you can get all of your native plant questions answered and learn more about how best to cultivate them in your own garden by attending one or all of our new series of classes "Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden."

Offered by Tracy Drake, Director of Madrona Marsh in Torrance, this free, first Saturday of the month class explores a range of gardening concerns and delights, including gardening for the gourmet, container and small space gardening, natives for kids and adults, plants for hot and sunny spaces as well as native plants that attract butterflies.

"Beyond the Lawn" was the topic of the January 5th class. Tracy explained native alternatives to exotic grasses such as Idaho fescue, blue grama, desert needlegrass and alkali sacaton. As with most grass, these indigenous plants provide great ground cover and prevent soil erosion, but require much less water. They need little, if any, fertilizer and some of them can even be mowed.

Come and learn about the beauty, adaptability, and often under-appreciated flora of California. The April 5th class is "A Garden of Gourmet Delights," from 2 to 4 pm. Call 570-1745 to register.



*This is one type of Idaho Fescue. Densely tufted, a bunch of grass which grows 1 foot tall, 1 to 2 foot spread. It tolerates wind and drought and can be grown in full sun or partial shade.*



# Remembering Rachel Carson

March is Women's History Month. This provides the perfect opportunity to reflect upon the contributions women have made towards making the world a better place. In particular, women have played a key role in cultivating the environmental movement and in fostering the meaningful connections between nature, science, and the arts. This is no more evident than in the works of Rachel Carson. Embodying the very definition of a multitasking Renaissance woman, Carson was an ecologist, biologist, activist, and prolific author.



all of Carson's writing was the view that all living things on the planet were significant, connected, and interwoven. She also recognized that humans were in a position to make choices which would alter the ecosystem, for better or for worse. She was the mother of environmental activism and the first to make the emphatic call for people to stop poisoning the earth. Written in 1962, her book *Silent Spring* sought to warn the public about the effects of pesticides, especially DDT. She challenged agricultural scientists as well as the government, and rallied for a change in the way people viewed the environment. She wrote: "If it is the public that is being asked to assume the risks, the public must decide whether it wishes to continue on the present road, and it can only do so when in full possession of the facts..."

Carson's detailed, lyrical writing style not only informed, but also never failed to capture the magic and wonder inherent in all the living things around her. Another of her highly acclaimed books, *A Sense of Wonder*, remains a beloved resource for teachers hoping to share her philosophy of engaging children in hands-on, curiosity-driven activities. She held the belief that "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."

Rachel Carson died in 1964, but even today her witness for the fascinating, important, complex loveliness of nature continues to inspire new generations to protect the earth and all its inhabitants.

The main message embedded within

## The Flutterings of Spring

Springtime marks the beginning of our "busy season" in the pollinator garden. Located along the ¼ mile trail, the blooming flowers beckon species of all sorts with brilliant colors and fragrant scents. The painted lady butterfly is one of these visitors. Painted lady caterpillars are fickle. They make use of over 100 host plants, thistle being one of the most common choices. Once the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis, it will often congregate around milkweed blossoms. Males can usually be seen perching and patrolling in the afternoon, searching for

females. The wingspan is 2"- 2 1/8" and the upper side of the wings are orange-brown. The hind wing has a distinctive row of five small black spots, and the forewing has a black patch with a white bar. The underside has a brown, gray, and black pattern with four distinct little eyespots. This characteristic helps distinguish painted ladies from American ladies

and west coast ladies, who are otherwise very similar in appearance.

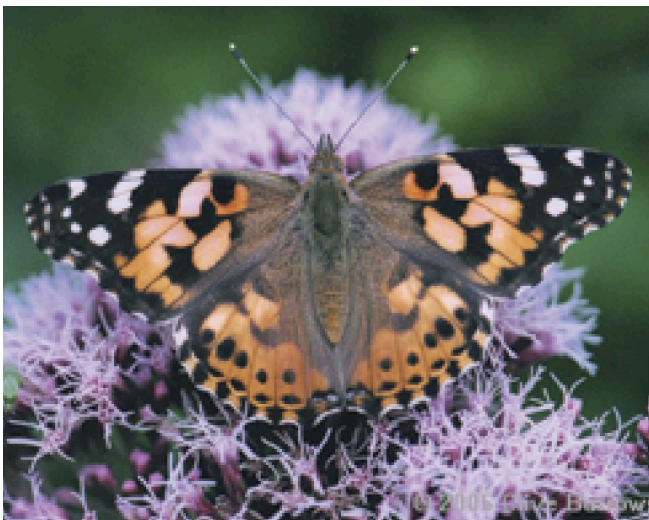
Grey hairstreaks are another butterfly partial to the Nature Center. Their caterpillars are slug-like and camouflage with flower heads. Adult hairstreaks can often be found drinking nectar on buckwheat plants. They are also drawn to milkweed. These butterflies are easy to identify, as their name is very indicative of their appearance: the upper side is blue-gray, and has one large red-



**Grey Hairstreak.**

orange spot; the underside is a matte gray. The wingspan runs about 7/8"- 1 3/8." In addition to being attractive, the hairstreaks have a very fascinating trait: little appendages on the hind wings that actually mimic antennae. They constantly wiggle them to distract predators from their vital parts. In nature, beauty serves many practical purposes.

To learn more about what butterflies call the Nature Center home, attend a butterfly walk on June 21 at 1 pm or consider participating in the Annual Butterfly Count on June 28, 8 am to noon, or 12:30 to 3 pm. Call 570-1745 to sign up.



**Painted Lady**

# Birding for the Sake of the Community

The annual bird counting event, the Great Backyard Bird Count, is an important way for the scientific community to learn about where birds are across the continent. This year's event took place on February 15-18, and was sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The Great Backyard Bird Count allows the community to engage in a four-day bird counting project, which raises awareness about the birds that visit our backyards and provides important scientific data.

El Dorado Nature Center participated by having a bird counting and education event on February 16 at the Colorado Lagoon. Local citizens, children, teachers, students, and bird-watchers learned how to participate in the count and why it's important. Visitors were encouraged to count as many birds, in as many places, and

on as many days as possible. The process requires counting as many individuals of each species that they see at any one time and then recording their results on an online database. By tracking data online you can discover what people are viewing all over the United States and Canada.

Last year, participants recorded 11 million birds of 616 species. Each year that data is collected makes the count more meaningful and allows scientists to investigate far-reaching questions, such as how the timing of bird's migrations compare with the past and how bird diseases, such as West Nile Virus, are affecting birds in different regions. Scientists also watch for any worrisome declines that point to the need for conservation. To learn more about the event, visit the Great Backyard Bird Count website at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org).

For more bird watching, plan to attend International Migratory Bird Day at El Dorado Nature Center, which is officially celebrated on the second Saturday in May in the U.S. and Canada. Migratory birds travel long distances between breeding and non-breeding sites throughout the Western Hemisphere. This event is an opportunity to learn about the important habitats of migratory birds, the bi-annual migration process as well as the impact human activities have on birds that migrate such as the Black-headed Grosbeak, and the Lazuli Bunting. This year's event is themed "Tundra to the Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitat, and People," and will feature a variety of bird education resource organizations and activities for the whole family. The event is Saturday, May 10, 10 am to 3 pm. See you there!

## Learning a Key in Preserving Wetlands

Wetlands are now a rarity in Long Beach, which once included areas of habitat for birds and wildlife. Fortunately, the citizens of Long Beach continue to fight for preservation of existing wetlands, including Colorado Lagoon. That's why the education at the Colorado Lagoon through the Wetland and Marine Science Education Center is so important. It nurtures and promotes an understanding of the value of wetlands.

Among the learning opportunities coming up at the Lagoon are a series of Naturalist-led education programs for the surrounding community. The entire family can join in on March 26, for "Swoopers, Dabblers, Stalkers and Divers," a bird discovery tour, as well as "Bountiful Land, Indigenous Peoples & Wet-lands" on March 30 & April 26. This discovery tour will encourage children to imagine what it was like a hundred years ago when the wetland was a rich resource for both people and animals. Spring Break Workshops such as *Glurp, Slurp...Burp*, a mud exploration, *Castaway*, a sur-

vival guide to the lagoon, and *Pirates of the Lost Lagoon* will provide 6 to 9 year olds a fun and adventurous way to explore the estuary.

In February, the Lagoon hosted the annual bird counting event, the Great Backyard Bird Count, an important way for the scientific community to learn about where birds are across the continent. Local citizens, children, teachers, students, and bird-watchers learned how to participate

in the count and the value of citizen science.

In addition to an increased number of public events at the Education Center, Long Beach school students have continued to use the Lagoon as a study resource to supplement their science curriculum. Award winning science teacher, William Craychee at Roger's Middle School brings his five classes once a month to study developments in wetland flora and fauna. Poly High School students track seasonal alterations at the Lagoon in areas of pollution, water quality and bird populations and Lakewood High School students have used the Lagoon to investigate wetland ecology for science fair projects.

Many thanks to William Craychee, at Roger's Middle School, and Erica Kelly, at Poly High School, Stephanie Bauer at Lakewood High School, Taylor Parker from Friends of Colorado Lagoon as well as El Dorado Nature Center staff Erin Kellogg and Brooke Davis for keeping the tide of learning flowing at our wonderful wetland.



**Shorebirds such as Willet, Marbled Godwit and Sandpipers are migratory but can be spotted at the Lagoon throughout the year.**

# VOLUNTEER NEWS

## Moveable Museum

It is with pleasure that we are able to announce that since January the Moveable Museum program, which was on hiatus during the 2006-2007 school year, is back in action. Passionate volunteers have stepped up to coordinate the program as well as giving in-class presentations. Protect Our Watery World, or POWW, is available for 2nd and 3rd graders and explores ways to protect our coastal marine environment through student action in schools and neighborhoods. Acorns, Sea and Sage, our 3rd and 4th grade program, looks at how the land and sea influenced the daily life of Southern California's earliest residents, the Tongva and Chumash peoples.

Many thanks to **Mary Stebbins, Lou Schumow** and **Dorothy Geisler** for putting their enthusiasm to work for the children of Long Beach and shepherding the program back to life.

## Trail Stewards

Our Trail Stewards volunteers continue to be our eyes and ears as they walk the trails and help people stay safe. Their work doesn't stop there. Trail Stewards also interact with the public to help folks wanting to know more about what they're seeing. **Lee Warren** recently brought his new spotting scope out on the trail so vis-

itors could get an up-close look at some of the birds at the South Lake. "Sharing with people the wonder of nature is a really fun part of being a Trail Steward," Lee said.

Also, at a meeting in February, Trail Stewards who had been inactive since the hiatus met with Supervising Ranger Bill Greco about CPR: courtesy, politeness and respect when interacting with the public. Bill explained that using these tenants during interactions will help volunteers communicate Nature Center policies and the reasons underlying them in a positive way.

Thank you to all the Trail Stewards for your participation and assistance on the trail: **Lee Warren, Linda Diaz, Craig Matheny, Steve Witt, Al Kimura, Gloria Potocki, Dorothy Geisler, Dee Barnard, Jeremy Blatchford, Judith Blatchford, Ed Brzezinski, Diana Chiang, Paul Kiley, Steve Liivoja, Steve McCord, Mary Stebbins, Damon Nixon, Lou Schumow, Frances Tomich.**

## Adopt A Beach Program

This year El Dorado Nature Center's "Adopt A Beach" program has been very fortunate to have 30 different organizations sign up to be stewards of the Long Beach coastline. Each group has committed to hosting four scheduled cleanups within a year, at the time and location of their choice. Some individuals, like Justin Rudd's

30 Minute Beach Cleanup and Josh Westfall "Clean Alamitos Beach", have made the cleanup open to anyone who is willing to help out. If you or your organization would like to take part in this wonderful volunteer program, call Meaghan O'Neill at (562) 570-1749.

Special Thanks to the following Adopt A Beach organizations: **Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Association of Southbay, Aquarium of the Pacific, Asian Youth Center, Compton High Recycle Club, CSULA Delta Sigma Chi, CSULB Environmental Science and Policy Club, CSULB Upward Bound Program, Delta Chi Fraternity, Devry University Advocates, Easter Seals Southern California, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Fisher-Price 30-minute Beach Cleanup, Insurance Exchange Building, Jackson Hewitt, Josh Westfall's Clean Alamitos Beach, Justin Rudd's 30-Minute Beach Cleanup, Kim's Beach Patrol, King's Seafood Company, Long Beach Marine Institute, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Volunteer Program, Order of Tong International, Parkcrest Church, Phi Kappa Tau, The Rolle family, Sigma Pi Fraternity, South Asian Rural Student Aid, Southern California Dragon Boat Club, Starbuck's Sunset Beach, Thums Long Beach Company, Ti'at Society.**

# Nurture Childhood in Nature

Think back to your first memory of nature as a child. Was it of creating a fort in the woods or vacant lot near your house? Was it of catching worms, fireflies, tadpoles or dragonflies? How about jumping and crunching in a big pile of raked leaves? As our world becomes increasingly urbanized and technology-focused, many kids today are not having these important early experiences with nature. There are many reasons for this trend – children's lives are becoming increasingly more scheduled, few school playgrounds have grass, and kids have less unsupervised time to run and play.

Author Richard Louv has written a fascinating book, *Last Child in the Woods* that addresses this topic. He sees this disconnect with nature as a major problem for the health of our planet. He believes that if

children do not make these transformative connections with nature at an early age, it is unlikely they will have a passion for protecting and preserving the environment as adults. He also sees this as having a direct impact on the health and well-being of the children themselves and makes some intriguing connections between our increasingly urbanized lives and the rise in childhood obesity, diabetes and attention deficit disorder in children.

As a parent of a pre-schooler, I want my son to have rich, memorable and thrilling memories of nature and to care passionately about the health of our planet. These are a few ways I hope to make that happen.

1. Spend some time out-of-doors every day. Even if it is just a walk around the block, you are sure to spot insects, birds,

flowers, seeds and falling leaves.

2. Limit or eliminate toys that run on batteries. Though touted as "educational," there is no research to show that electronic toys are helpful for young children.

3. Find a place you love. Whether it's your backyard, a favorite stretch of beach or the Nature Center, it is familiarity with a place that makes it special and leads to connection.

Rachel Carson said, "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." You can be that adult and help raise the next generation of committed stewards of our Earth. Bring your grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor child for a walk at the Nature Center!



## El Dorado Nature Center

***Thank you to all of our new Friends who have joined since November 2007.  
Your generous contributions help to make El Dorado Nature Center  
a place for education and recreation like no other!***

### **LARGE DONATIONS**

Bill Viola & Kira Perov - \$700

Alex & Mia Lipski - \$500 – in honor of Mary Blackburn

Anonymous - \$1000

### **GREY FOX**

Eileen Klink

Robert Ruderman

### **RED EARED SLIDERS**

Charles Courdy  
Adan Herrera  
Joseph Herron  
Leslie Jamison  
Susan Lindberg  
Janet Marsh  
Sue Paolilli  
John Royce  
Robert Sundstrom

### **BUTTERFLY**

Jessica Hill  
John & Donna Hinrichs  
Betty McCown  
Willellyn McFarland  
Louis Wilson

### **ACORN**

Maureen Adler  
Jackie Betraun

Sean Blackburn  
Tom & Lynda Capel  
Alan Coles  
Brooke Davis  
Nancy Hagthorp  
Sharon Hansen  
Kathy Hanson  
Richard James  
Erin Kellogg  
Craig & Kathy Matheny  
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Fergie Newbaker  
Roy Nesvold  
Emily Rader  
Susan Roberge  
Shellie Saunders  
Natalie Sellers  
Billie Sheaffer  
Bert Srack  
Beth Taormina  
Erika Treller

***Your support has allowed us to sponsor Andy Goldsworthy Day, send naturalists to the Great Turning Conference, purchase and plant the burn area and the demonstration garden, cut and clean dead and diseased trees, as well as install three recycled plastic benches along the trail in honor of Mia and Alex Lipski and John and Margo Hermann.***

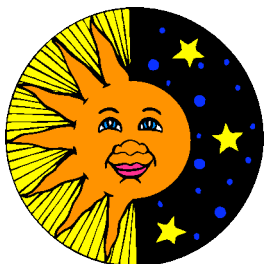
Help enhance the habitat and the excellent educational programs you love by renewing your membership in **Friends of El Dorado Nature Center** today. Your support is essential.  
Make a difference in your community by joining today!  
For more information (562) 570-4935.



# Ritual Worth Repeating

As an annual rite of springtime, Nature Center staff succumbs to the instinctive urge to garner their gratitude and bring goodies and thanks to a feast for our volunteer family. It's a tradition dating back to our ancient ancestry, so it cannot be denied.

We ask that you help us fulfill our primordial mission and please plan to join us at the volunteer potluck on Tuesday, June 3 at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share with 5 people and an eco-friendly place setting. It's destiny, so we'll see you there!



## Mark Your Calendar

### **Community Potlucks**

Last Tuesday of Every Month  
March 25, April 29, May 27,  
June 24, 6:30 pm.

### **Earth Day**

At the Nature Center – April 19,  
10 am to 3 pm  
At Colorado Lagoon – April 19  
and 20, 10 am to 2 pm

### **Springtime at the Nature Center**

Join a Naturalist for a native  
plant walk  
April 26, 10 am to noon

### **Volunteer & Friends Enrichment**

April 27, 10:30 am-12:30 p.m.

### **Turtle Show**

May 3, 10 am to 3 pm

### **International Migratory Bird Day**

May 10, 10 am to 3 pm

### **Summer Concerts Begin**

June 18, doors open  
at 6:30 pm

### **Solstice Campfire**

June 20, 7-9 pm

### **Reptile Show**

June 29, 10 am to 3 pm